

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 6 is pending in this application. Please cancel claims 7 and 11-28 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend the remaining claim 6, as follows:

1 - 5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating computer resources to each of a plurality of users connected to a computer system via an external network, the computer system including a plurality of computers interconnected via an internal network for processing ~~an input packet~~ process request packets sent from each user, ~~[[and]]~~ the method comprising the steps of:

for a use contract between each user and the computer system, ~~setting from~~ urging each user to input a first virtual IP address to be used as an access destination address of [[a]] process request packet, as an address to be used for accessing the user system in the computer system, determining from the process request packet which of an access source packets, and to determine which of said first virtual IP address and a second virtual IP address, that is included in each of the process request packets sent from said user as an access destination source IP address, in the process request packet is to be used as information necessary for identifying [[a]] said user related to the when a process request packet, and urging each user to input the virtual address is sent to the computer system from said user;

registering in said computer system mapping information for determining a user identification from a determined one of said first virtual IP address and second virtual IP address when a process request packet is sent to the computer system from said user;

urging each user to input a service level condition as a portion of the use contract, the service level condition including at least upper or lower limits of the number of computers to be allocated to process the process request packet supplied from each to the user; ~~[[and]]~~

~~allocating a computer for processing the process request packet supplied from~~ determining an allocation of said computers to each user in accordance with the input service level condition input by each user, and recording history of the number of allocated computers forming an allocation definition table including the user

identification of each user and correspondence information between said first virtual IP address to be used as access destination address in process request packets from each user and real IP address of computers allocated to each user; and

distributing each of the process request packets from each user to a computer allocated to the corresponding user by referring to said allocation definition table.

7-28. (Canceled).